

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
May 6th, 2009
4:30 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Byron Koh, Denise Boyd, Carolyn Platt, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Helen MacMellon, Nancy Pagano

Members Absent: Yuko Takahashi, Nancy Bess, Bill Hutchinson, Stephanie Joyce, Kathy Woods Masalski

Minutes of April 16th: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: According to Florence, we have \$1,375.63 currently.

Jones Library Report: Carolyn reported that the Jones Library has received another gift of a large number of children's books from the Kanegasaki Library as part of their sister library exchange. The books are written in Japanese and are quite lovely. Kanegasaki has been so generous through the years that now the Jones is running out of space to include them in the children's foreign language collection. Carolyn is seeking ideas and help in distributing the books. She gave a box of books to the Wildwood School librarian that circulated through the elementary schools four years ago and perhaps that could be done again. Jule wondered if older people learning Japanese would appreciate seeing the books. She suggested that perhaps Yuko could use some in her Japanese classes at UMass--Carolyn will contact her. Maybe Stephanie Joyce could use some of the books in her Wildwood classes studying Japanese culture.

October Invitation to Kanegasaki:

Members discussed the KSCC response to Kanegasaki Mayor Takahashi's invitation to the Selectboard Chair Stephanie O'Keeffe and our Chair Byron Koh to attend festivities planned in mid-October to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Kanegasaki's sister city connections. Stephanie has regretfully declined because of personal reasons and another Selectboard member will be selected to replace her. Byron wanted to go on behalf of the KSCC, but also is unable to attend because of other commitments. Three other KSCC members have shown interest in attending. Carolyn would be interested if the festivities had to do with the Sister Library connection. Nancy would go but would want to extend the three day trip to include a visit to Hiroshima, Kyoto and Yokohama, where her great grandfather is buried, and Jule would go only if no one else is available to go. Members strongly encouraged Nancy to accept the invitation as she has never been to Japan and has been an active KSCC member for many years. Byron will have Yuko contact Miyuki in Japan of Nancy's positive response.

KSCC Pamphlet Jule Dupre is using her desktop publishing skills to create a draft of a brochure. It will be very useful in promoting awareness of the KSCC, attracting new members and in fundraising. The basic mission statement should be included. It is hoped that the publication will ***Promote International Understanding***, by promoting various projects and exchanges. Jule suggests the flyer might be used to help with encouraging the following:

- Town business connections, and also possible small donations from businesses for chaperone expenses in exchange for reference of appreciation in the flyer;
- Promotion of the areas similar to both towns, including the rural atmosphere and such connections as the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, historical districts;
- Continuation of our very successful school exchanges;
- Private citizen home-stays;
- Support of programs which promote cultural understanding;
- Possibly expanding the library connections which are such a great contribution to cultural understanding. Perhaps a recommended book list for people going to Japan could be developed;
- Possibly giving some free public talks on the history of the sister city relationship;
- Sports team, musician or artist exchanges.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting ended at 6:04 PM. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 2nd, at 4:30 PM, in the Senior Center's Alice Dowd Lounge.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Secretary/Liaison